Standards and Assessment Vocabulary
Mathematics – Grades 6-8

The purpose of the *Standards and Assessment Vocabulary* is to highlight words or phrases contained in the Indiana Academic Standards that may appear on ISTEP+ and to develop an awareness of connections between the standards and assessment.

Key Word or Phrase	Notes
Explain	• Students may be prompted to **explain** their answer by wording such as: ▪ Use words, numbers, and/or symbols in your **explanation**. ▪ **Explain** what the slope represents in this situation. An example: Bill is baking brownies. His recipe uses 1/3 cup of brown sugar and makes 60 brownies. **Explain** how Bill could use the amount of brown sugar needed to make 60 brownies to determine the amount of brown sugar needed to make 300 brownies. Use words, numbers, and/or symbols in your **explanation**.
Expression vs. Equation	• Students must be sure to write an **equation** or **expression** based upon the directions. An **equation** example: Irene spent half of her weekly allowance playing miniature golf. To earn more money, her parents let her wash the car for $4. Write an **equation** that can be used to determine Irene's weekly allowance (a) if she has $12 after washing the car. An **expression** example: Tina works at a car wash. She is paid $37 per day plus $1.50 for every car that she washes. Write an **expression** that represents the amount Tina is paid each day given the number of cars (c) she washes.
Evaluate	• Students may be asked to find the value of an expression by directions that say "**evaluate**." **Evaluate** means to find the value of something. An example: **Evaluate**: $\frac{8+6\times3}{104\div2}$
Justify or Support	• Students may be asked to **justify** their answer by wording such as: ▪ **Justify** your answer using words, numbers, and/or symbols. ▪ Use words, numbers, and/or symbols to **support** your answer. ▪ Which store is the least expensive? **Be sure to include** the cost of store A and the cost of store B in your answer. ▪ Is Jasmine correct? **Support** your answer using words, numbers, and/or symbols. An example: Sue bought 4 rings for her mom. Each ring costs the same amount of money. The total cost was $31. Sue claims that she can buy 2 rings for each of her 13 friends with $200. Is Sue's claim correct? Use words, numbers, and/or symbols to **support** your answer.
Simplify	• Students are often asked to perform operations in an expression, such as adding, subtracting, multiply, and dividing. • Students may need to apply laws or properties in expressions, such as the laws of exponents. An example: **Simplify** $3(2x + 5) – (4 + 3^2)$.
Solve	• Students are often asked to perform algebraic manipulations in order to find the value(s) of a variable in an equation. An example: **Solve** $2x – 3 = 9$.